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BEAUTY! A HOME!! AND FORTUNE.

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LURLEY !

A Legend of the Rhine. A female of rare beauty, born on the shores of the river, where the rocks are the most dangerous, and with her song and music charms the unwary sailors to near her, when they meet a watery grave. The subject is full of life, full of emotion, and altogether a success.

THE DISINHERITED !

A young man, through the sole influence of some in his household, is deprived of a share in his father's house. Having but sorrow as his lot, he departs, and from a neighboring hill he takes his last look and farewell to the scenes of his younger and better days. The heart never tires to look. The more it sees, the greater the desire to look again and again.

Select Poetry.

SPRING FLOWERS.

M. R. W.

April has dallied with us too long,
Now putting us off with the robin's song;
Nodding and tossing her alder plumes,
As if they were sprays of Summer-blooms;

Amom, with the sunshine on her crown,
To give us glimpse of her green gown,
Shifting her cloak, all rugged and brown,
Just to let us see how blue, how blue—

Are her eyes, the deep, enchanting blue.

Which brings the liverleaf's cup with blue.

It is time for April's flowers to show,

Along the hem of her gown's soft flow.

I plucked the earliest, long ago,

When the robin the wizard's song was new.

With out-of-door, gaudy, gay,

Ere the wild March-blossom had drifit,

Lilac, white, and the delicate dye

Tinging the cheeks of anemos,

Pearl-color, pink of the buds that drink

At a brown brook's mossy, flower-fringed brink

And rare, even those upper leas,

That luminous tint of clear pale green,

Which only blooms in the sky, I ween.

It is time for April's flowers to show,

Along the hem of her gown's soft flow.

I plucked the earliest, long ago,

When the robin the wizard's song was new.

Breathless, shy, delicate youth,

Appeared and vanished, a fairy-sight,

A vision by robin conjured forth,

But it comes no more; the robins sing,

And I wait with eyes, listening,

The sky-blue flowers, with starry eyes

And odorous breath, &c., &c.,

—From *Alpine for April.*

Popular Miscellany.

SOMETHING ABOUT SHAD AND THE DELAWARE FISHERIES.

All that concerns the fisheries on the Delaware is of interest to a large class of persons who live along both banks of the river, and everything written on the subject is read with avidity. The late report of Drs. Howell and Slack, Commissioners of Fisheries of the State of New Jersey, made to the Legislature of that State, contains a good deal of information on the fish and fisheries of the Delaware, which is new to the general reader. They have examined the subject carefully and thoroughly, and appear to be well acquainted with it. The report commences with noticing when the migratory fishes from the sea enter the Delaware, and seek its clear, quiet waters to deposit their spawn, and to nurse their young.

"This usually occurs in the Delaware river about the middle of March, though in very early seasons a few make their appearance in the upper portion of Delaware Bay during the month of February. These migratory fishes are the shad, herring, rock-fish and sturgeon; we have no certain knowledge that salmon ever frequent the waters, they are not known to have been found farther south than the Hudson. Inasmuch as the waters of the Delaware would seem to afford a suitable habitat for them, presenting the usual characteristics of salmon rivers, measures are about being taken, at the expense of the commissioners, to place in the Delaware near its head-waters one thousand young salmon, hatched by the artificial process."

In the report of the Commissioners of Fisheries of Massachusetts, for 1870, the manner in which shad and Alewives or herring, spawn has been ascertained by direct observation. Of the shad it is said:

"Gathered in close schools the males and females circle about, often with the dorsal-fin out of water, suddenly, as if by an electric shock, they make a dart and immediately clouds of spawn and milt are shot into the water. Where there is only single pair of shad they swim slowly in circles, the male keeping his head close to the pectoral-fins of the female."

The habits of herring during the process of spawning has likewise been observed with care, and a full account thereof is to be found in the Massachusetts Fisheries report for 1867. As neither shad nor herring are carnivorous, it has not yet been determined what they live on. The stomachs of the former, caught a hundred miles up the river, have been found filled with the half digested fragments of a well-known marine-aquatic plant found along the coast; while the stomachs of those caught below Philadelphia, has been taken a soft unknown substance. Of the rock or striped bass, which are captured in the Delaware in immense numbers, the Commissioners say of them and their spawning:

"The rock or striped bass are captured in the Delaware in immense numbers. At Milford, thirty-five miles above Trenton, thousands have been captured during the past season by the illegal method of brush damming the river, a flagrant violation of our river-laws which we hope will not be repeated. The fish here captured were small, few having been taken of over four pounds weight, though in the lower Delaware they attain an enormous size; one captured at Howell's a few years since having attained the enormous weight of eighty pounds. They spawn in tidal creeks near the mouth of the river during the late spring or early summer months; they have been found in the month of June distended with spawn not yet ripe. They are taken at all seasons of the year, and it is a strange and unexplained fact, that they are now (1871) being captured on the New Jersey coast of the same size as those taken in early spring. It was formerly believed that this fish ascended our rivers for the purpose of depositing its spawn, but it is now ascertained that its object is solely to obtain food, which is afforded in

MIDDLETON, NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE, SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 15, 1871.

immense quantity by the young fry or the shad. A dozen rock fish were purchased in October last from the fishery at Upper Black's Eddy; of these, the stomachs of nine were found to contain young shad of two to three and a half inches in length."

Of the runs of shad it is said:

"The successive runs of shad continue from about the middle of March to the last of June or the early part of July, they having been sold during the past year in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, on July 4th. They are few in number until the middle of April, from this time to the middle of May comes what is known among fishermen as the great run, after that their number rapidly diminishes. The same phenomena are observable in the downward course of the fry to the sea. Those early spawned, few in number, are descending, while adults are still ascending the stream. Young shad two and a half inches long, were observed June 8, 1869, at Howell's Fishery by one of your commissioners."

The shad are current fish. They enter our rivers in the spring and take their departure in the fall when they are swollen by rains. They stem the current with great facility, and ascend the stream until some obstruction prevents them going up farther. There is a difference of opinion as to what becomes of them in the winter after they descend the rivers. Some believe they skirt down our Southern coast in great droves, and when winter is over they turn round and come back, leaving a squat at the mouth of each river. Others think they resort to the gulf stream where they spend the winter in the warm waters of that great current of the ocean. Of course what becomes with the shad in winter is mere supposition at best, but inasmuch as the cod take long journeys to within the Arctic circle to find spawning ground, why may not the shad journey like likewise to spend an agreeable winter.

The shad and other fish are caught by what are known as gilling or drift nets, and sweeping or shore seines. The former have been in use only since 1822-23, while the latter have been in use from the earliest settlement of the States. These shore fisheries were much more numerous than at present—there being now only about thirty from the head of the Delaware Bay to Trenton, and about eighty from the latter place to the New York State line. In ordinary seasons operations commence at these fisheries about the tenth of April, and should terminate, according to law, below Trenton Falls, June 10, and above, June 15—but unfortunately for the fish the law is not always observed.

There about 700 men employed in the shore fisheries below Trenton, and in the upper Delaware the number employed is about 800. They are paid by the month, with board. The operations of the fisheries are much interrupted by storms, and below Philadelphia by vessels running aground, or anchoring or passing over the fishing grounds at the particular time when the tide suits for laying off the seines. Before the owner of a shore fishery enters upon it he is obliged, by law, to file in the Prothonotary's office a description, in writing, of his fishery, the length of shore used, &c., and to give security in \$1000 for the payment of all fines and penalties, &c. The number of shad fisheries on the Delaware from below Trenton Falls to the mouth, is thirty-two, of which ten are on the Pennsylvania shore, and the remainder in New Jersey. The aggregate number of men employed is six hundred, and the length of seine used, in fathoms almost seven thousand. Above the Falls there is a large number of small fisheries, with an average of seven hands to each, and length of seine used about fifty-five fathoms. The number of gilling seines in use between Trenton and Cohansey, about 100 miles, is estimated at from 500 to 1000. When first introduced fifty years ago, their use was restricted, but of late the law is disregarded. The length of seine used in these 100 miles will reach, if it thought, 300,000 yards. It is the practice below Trenton, and where the water is deep enough above, to stretch the net across the channel, and there stake or anchor it for a considerable time, and afterward loose it and let it float. This is a very objectionable practice. The gilling seines are supposed to have driven the shad away, from the Delaware, as they have fallen off in quantity very greatly since these nets were used, and the shore fisheries catch much fewer. Down to 1820, when there were no gill nets, and which was the most productive year ever known, there was no diminution in number or size of shad; and in that year the great haul of ten thousand eight hundred shad was made at Fancy Hill. They have fallen off in size and weight.

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the month of June and some even into July. On the upper Delaware, during the past few years, there has been little fishing on the Sabbath, but fishing on Saturday night is quite common, and shad are caught and sold until the first of July, a violation of the law.

As a proof of the constant and persistent decrease of the number of shad captured in the Delaware, by the shore-fishermen, we give the number caught at How-

ell's two fisheries, the principal ones on the Jersey shore of the river. The time is divided into three periods of five years each, the first from 1818 to 1822, being prior to the introduction of gill-nets; the second from 1845 to 1849, when the gill nets were fairly established; and the third, 1865 to 1869, after they had assumed their present proportions:

Season of 1818.....	111,492 shad.
" 1819.....	155,864 "
" 1820.....	170,505 "
" 1821.....	107,091 "
" 1822.....	107,194 "

656,146

Average.....131,229 per annum.

Each.....65,614

Season of 1845.....90,540 shad.

" 1846.....125,659 "

" 1847.....59,049 "

" 1848.....17,364 "

" 1849.....38,998 "

334,450

Average.....68,445 per annum.

Each.....34,222

Season of 1865.....64,925 shad.

" 1866.....59,550 "

" 1867.....58,090 "

" 1868.....43,550 "

" 1869.....38,274 "

303,699

Average.....60,739 per annum.

Each.....30,369

Season of 1870.....52,159

Each.....26,379

DEEP vs. SHALLOW CORN PLANTING.

" We are continually being asked by inquiring minds for the best mode of planting corn, if experience is worth anything in connection with common sense in planting corn whether deep or shallow, and whether the fertilizer (if any is used) should be applied immediately in contact with the grain, or covered with earth before the grain is dropped. On this subject of corn planting, like nearly all agricultural subjects, there is doubtless a great contrariety of opinions and experiences among those recognized as good farmers. My object now is not to intrude my judgment, but to elicit the judgments of scientific and practical farmers on the subject—how should corn be planted—in deep or shallow furrows, and how covered, that outsiders don't know just a pretty good deal about. Now, Mr. Editor, I propose making these secret public, not out of compassion for my fellow-men, who may be tending towards Masonry, and act as a warning, and so on, because I haven't got a spark of human kindness in my breast, and would rather see every mother's son put to the torture than not, but because I have a spite against the fellows who initiated me. who made the iron too hot, and the gods too frisky, and treated me with a roughness, generally, that the occasion did not warrant.

Some practical farmers cling with wonderful tenacity to the notion that the corn ground should be run out in quite shallow furrows, and corn planted as near the surface as possible. I cannot divine why this practice is regarded with so much favor, unless they want the roots to be near the top of the ground as may be, to be parched up when drought comes. Or it may be they imagine all the virtue of the soil, like that of some men, to be on the surface, and that the rain passing down through the earth, carry the nourishing elements upward to the surface instead of downward through the body of the soil. But whatever may be the idea of these farmers who want to keep as near to daylight as possible, like small coasters hugging the shores and never venturing far on the bosom of the ocean, I am unable on any sound reason to approve their practice. However, when one positively disapproves a course of operation, it is only fair that he should indicate a substitute. Well, I do not claim to be much of a farmer, if I do not conceive some ideas, but I am anxious to learn.

How then, should we plant corn? The ground being well prepared, it should be furrowed out, both ways, with furrow plow, from three and half to four feet apart, the plow being allowed to go down quite deep, say within two or three inches of the bottom of the broken ground, where the plowing has been from six to nine inches deep. Ordinarily the furrow should be run out two-thirds the depth of the plowing. Having done this, the corn must be dropped in the bottom of the furrow and covered lightly, with not more than two inches of earth on the grain; and less is better where the soil is moist and warm, for the light covering insures early coming up, and often more healthily than the deep covering in the first stage of growth.

The advantages of light covering become apparent, too, when we look at the injurious consequences of deep covering, in the frequent failure of the corn to come up at all; and if it does work its way through the mass of clay on it, and break the crust on top, which has had time to form because of the slowness of the stalk growing through the ground, it generally leads a sickly existence for some time. The longer the corn plant is coming up, the slower the growth, and the more yellow it appears for some time. To have the plant start up quickly and grow vigorously at the beginning of the season is a great desideratum; but to have the crop appropriate to itself all the available materials in the ground, and the farmer not be guilty of the bad financial policy of allowing his money to remain in the soil in the